

## TOWN OF WELLESLEY



### ADVISORY COMMITTEE LETTER - SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

February 1, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Wellesley Middle School Auditorium

#### TERM ENDS 2016

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Tom Frisardi, Chair  
John Hartnett  
Mason Smith, Vice Chair  
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#### TERM ENDS 2017

Chad Harris  
Michael Mastrianni  
Frank Pinto, Vice Chair  
Sara Raveret, Secretary  
Kathleen Woodward

#### TERM ENDS 2018

Tom Fitzgibbons  
Mike Hluchyj  
Mark Kaplan  
Alena Poirier  
Ria Stolle

To the Citizens of the Town of Wellesley:

January 15, 2016

A Special Town Meeting (STM) will convene in the Wellesley Middle School Auditorium on February 1, at 7:00 p.m. Town Meeting will continue the process that it began this fall, when it voted favorably on initial measures to authorize the Town to adopt a town manager/board of selectmen form of government. The basic nature of the change is to replace the office of Executive Director with that of a Town Manager, who would have greater authority and act as the chief administrative officer for all Town business apart from schools and the Municipal Light Plant (MLP).

This fall, Town Meeting approved special legislation, which is needed to authorize the Town to adopt a town manager/board of selectmen form of government ("the Special Act"). The Special Act is now pending in the Legislature with a favorable recommendation by the reporting legislative committee. If the Legislature enacts the legislation as requested by the Town, then the Special Act will go before the Town for approval in a Town-wide vote in the spring. If the Legislature and the voters approve this plan, then the Board of Selectmen will hire a Town Manager to replace the current Executive Director, who has announced his retirement as of November 2016.

In addition to the Special Act, changes in the Town Bylaws are needed to adapt the Bylaws to a town manager/board of selectmen form of government.<sup>1</sup> This fall, Town Meeting acted on proposed Bylaw amendments regarding the roles of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager in this new form of government, but dissolved before acting on other proposed amendments to the Bylaws. The purpose of the winter STM is to act on the remainder of the proposed Bylaw amendments.

The unfinished business that will come before the winter STM, in accordance with the Special Act adopted this fall, comprises: (1) adopting a new section of the Bylaws to consolidate existing budget provisions into a single article, to add provisions to reflect the transfer of authority over the budget process from boards and committees to the Town Manager, and to establish a timeline for the budget process; (2) amending certain appointment provisions throughout the Bylaws to transfer authority from boards and committees to the Town Manager; (3) amending Articles 30 and 31 of the Bylaws to establish the roles of the Town Manager, the Human Relations Board and the Human Relations Director in the administration of personnel policies, the Classification and Salary Plan and collective bargaining agreements; and (4) amending certain provisions throughout the Bylaws to require the Board of Selectmen to fix the date for Annual Town Meeting by November 15 of the preceding year, and other miscellaneous changes.

The motions anticipated at the winter STM are similar to the measures presented under Article 4 of the fall STM, action on which was deferred until this winter.

#### Conclusion

This fall, Town Meeting approved most of the measures needed for the Town to adopt a town manager/board of selectmen form of government. Our winter Special Town Meeting will focus on the remaining changes proposed for the Town Bylaws. Assuming that the Legislature acts favorably on the Special Act, the next step is up to you, the voters, when the question comes up for a popular vote this spring.

It has been a privilege to serve as the Advisory Chair during this dynamic period in the Town of Wellesley.

Sincerely,

Thomas Frisardi, Chair  
Advisory Committee

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<sup>1</sup>The Town Bylaws are also referred to as the "General Bylaws," or simply the "Bylaws," as distinct from the Zoning Bylaws.



Advisory Committee  
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Wellesley, MA 02482

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**TOWN OF WELLESLEY**



**Advisory Committee Letter  
Special Town Meeting  
February 1, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.  
Wellesley Middle School Auditorium**

**Key points about the upcoming Special Town Meeting:**

- Actions taken by the Special Town Meeting that convened on November 2, 2015, and dissolved on December 3, 2015, laid the path to transition the Town's Executive Director position to that of a Town Manager. Authority for budget and personnel would be transferred from boards and committees to the Town Manager, who would serve as the Town's chief administrative officer for all departments, except for Schools and the Municipal Light Plant.
- The Special Town Meeting that convenes on February 1, 2016, will act on proposals to amend Town Bylaws left unresolved by the Special Town Meeting. The amendments are intended to adapt the Town Bylaws to the role of the Town Manager.
- The transition to a town manager form of government will not take effect unless and until the matter is approved by a town-wide vote this spring.
- The Special Town Meeting will be webcast: [www.wellesleymedia.org/wellesley-government-channel.html](http://www.wellesleymedia.org/wellesley-government-channel.html).